



February 26, 2009

A Note To.....
Our Friends and Partners Of
USDA Rural Development

With the change of the Government Administration, comes the change of USDA Rural Development State Directors. I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself. I have been with USDA Rural Development for 27 years and normally hold the position of Assistant to the State Director and Admin Programs Director. During this transition period, pending the appointment of a new State Director, I have been named Acting State Director for USDA Rural Development in Kansas. During this temporary transition, rest assured that our dedicated staff will continue to provide technical and personal assistance in delivering the many housing, business and community programs available from USDA Rural Development.

USDA Rural Development's programs support such essential public facilities and services as water and sewer systems, housing, public health care, emergency service facilities, renewable energy systems and value-added agriculture enterprises. The Agency promotes economic development by supporting loans to businesses through banks and community-managed lending pools; technical assistance and information to help agricultural and other cooperatives become established.

The Agency has excellent programs to assist eligible Kansans with their homeownership, rental or home repair needs. Providing qualified individuals and families the opportunity to improve their current housing situation with safe, affordable housing is essential for those who wish to enjoy the American Dream.

USDA Rural Development energy programs offer Kansas farmers and ranchers, along with rural businesses owners and public entities, the opportunity to receive funding assistance to harness the untapped renewable energy resources and achieve greater energy efficiency, providing additional economic development opportunities for Kansans.

Realizing successful affordable housing, community, and economic development in rural Kansas requires effective partnerships; including public, private, faith-based and community initiatives across local, state and federal levels.

It is through partnerships that we come together and seek answers and explore other resources and ways to address the increasing needs across the State of Kansas. No one entity can solve all the issues and address all the concerns that individuals and communities as a whole are trying to address. With these partnerships, USDA Rural Development will continue to leverage Agency program funding, technical assistance, and deliver the support to increase economic opportunities and enhancing the quality of life for rural Kansans.

If I can be of assistance to you or your organization in any way, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Cordially,

DARLA J. BUCKMAN
Acting State Director
USDA Rural Development, Kansas

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1303 SW First American Place • Suite 100 • Topeka, KS 66604-4040
(785) 271-2700 • Fax (785) 271-2708 • TTY (785) 271-2767 • www.rurdev.usda.gov/ks

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